

Appln No. 09/575,157
Amdt. Dated July 29, 2004
Response to Office action of July 29, 2004

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The objections and submissions made by the Examiner in the Office Action have carefully been considered and it is submitted that distinguishing features are present in the invention and now are brought out in the amended claims.

Specification

In Item 2 of the Office Action the Examiner has commented on the structure and the content of the abstract of the specification. In response, the abstract has been amended and brought into compliance with the US practice.

Claims – Obviousness

In Item 5 of the Office Action claims 12 to 14 have been rejected as being anticipated by US 6 642 956 (Safai). In Items 7, 8, 9 and 10 the Examiner further objects to claims 17 and 19-22; 15 and 16; 18; and, 23 and 24, respectively, on the bases that these claims are unpatentable over Safai, when considered on its own or in combination with other prior art documents. In response, claims 12 to 24 have been withdrawn and a new set of claims (25 to 40) has been included.

The present invention discloses an image processing system including a compact camera module that is releasably engageable with a compact printer module. Notably, the printer module includes a high resolution page-width printhead, as described in the penultimate paragraph on page 5, which is particularly suitable for the requirements of the compact printer module. This particular system configuration is very different from the prior art systems because of the specific requirements it places on the structures of both the camera and the printer modules. For example, prior art pagewidth printers are bulky, mains-powered devices that are not handheld. They are not designed to engage with each other either and are, therefore, unsuitable for including in a system such as the one defined in the new set of claims.

In the preferred form, the invention, as defined in claim 27 onwards, is directed to an image processor for the camera module within the camera-printer system. By defining the overall system in the new claims, we have placed the invention in its appropriate context while preserving its inventive features. It is submitted that the new claims better define this inventive combination and are, therefore, novel and inventive over the cited prior art documents.

US 2001/0019561 (Staats) is the only document cited by the Examiner that discloses a system comprising a camera and a printer. In contrast to the present invention, however, these are separate full size devices, the construction and component functionality of which are not restricted by requirements for compatibility such as power consumption, compactness and interoperability via an interface that operates when the camera and the printer are engaged. In addition, this prior art document is totally silent on the characteristics and the internal structure of the various processing units within the camera and the printer. There is certainly nothing to suggest that the printing module is page-width. Consequently, it is submitted that the new independent claim 25, as

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well as all dependent claims 26 to 40, are not only novel, but also possess the requisite inventive step to qualify for patentability.

Finally, we have included in new claim 40 an additional feature that was not present in the original claims. This feature specifies the particular type of color space that the processed data is converted to before it is sent to the printer module. This feature has been disclosed in page 11 and does not introduce any new matter in the specification.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections have been successfully traversed and the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the application is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

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